

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently amended)** A method for preventing infection of a subject by a microbe comprising: administering a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor to a subject at risk of developing an infection, wherein said modulation of the microbial transcription factor reduces virulence of the microbe, such that infection of the subject is prevented.
2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.
3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.
4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, further comprising administering an antibiotic.
5. **(Original)** A method for preventing urinary tract infection of a subject by a microbe comprising: administering a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor to a subject at risk of developing a urinary tract infection such that infection of the subject is prevented.
6. **(Original)** A method for preventing prostatitis in a subject by a microbe comprising: administering a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor to a subject at risk of developing prostatitis such that infection of the subject is prevented.
7. **(Original)** A method for reducing virulence of a microbe comprising: administering a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor to a subject at risk of developing an infection with the microbe such that virulence of the microbe is reduced.
8. **(Original)** The method of claim 7, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 7, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.
10. **(Original)** The method of claim 7, further comprising administering an antibiotic.
11. **(Currently amended)** A method for treating a microbial infection in a subject comprising: administering a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor to a subject having a microbial infection, wherein said modulation of the microbial transcription factor reduces virulence of the microbe, such that infection of the subject is treated.
12. **(Original)** The method of claim 11, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.
13. **(Original)** The method of claim 11, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.
14. **(Original)** The method of claim 11, further comprising administering an antibiotic.
15. **(Currently amended)** A method for treating a microbial urinary tract infection in a subject comprising: administering a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor to a subject having a microbial urinary tract infection such that infection of the subject is treated.
16. **(Original)** A method for treating prostatitis in a subject comprising: administering a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a transcription factor to a subject having prostatitis such that infection of the subject is treated.
17. **(Original)** The method of claim 15, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.
18. **(Original)** The method of claim 15, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.

19. **(Original)** The method of claim 15, further comprising administering an antibiotic.
20. **(Original)** A method for reducing virulence in a microbe comprising: administering a compound that inhibits the expression or activity of a transcription factor to a subject having a microbial infection such that virulence of the microbe is reduced.
21. **(Original)** The method of claim 20, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.
22. **(Original)** The method of claim 20, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.
23. **(Original)** The method of claim 20, further comprising administering an antibiotic.
24. **(Original)** A method for evaluating the effectiveness of a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor at inhibiting microbial virulence comprising: infecting a non-human animal with a microbe, wherein the ability of the microbe to establish an infection in the non-human animal requires that the microbe colonize the animal; administering the compound that modulates the expression or activity of the microbial transcription factor to the non-human animal; and determining the level of infection of the non-human animal, wherein the ability of the compound to reduce the level of infection of the animal indicates that the compound is effective at inhibiting microbial virulence.
25. **(Original)** The method of claim 24, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.
26. **(Original)** The method of claim 24, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.
27. **(Original)** The method of claim 24, further comprising administering an antibiotic.

28. **(Original)** The method of claim 24, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by measuring the ability of the microbe to colonize the tissue of the non-human animal.

29. **(Original)** The method of claim 24, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by enumerating the number of microbes present in the tissue of the non-human animal.

30. **(Original)** A method for identifying a compound for treating microbial infection, comprising: inoculating a non-human animal with a microbe, wherein the ability of the microbe to establish an infection in the non-human animal requires that the microbe colonize the animal; administering a compound which reduces the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor to the animal, and determining the effect of the test compound on the ability of the microbe to colonize the animal, such that a compound for treating microbial infection is identified.

31. **(Original)** The method of claim 30, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.

32. **(Original)** The method of claim 30, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.

33. **(Original)** The method of claim 30, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by measuring the ability of the microbe to colonize the tissue of the non-human animal.

34. **(Original)** The method of claim 30, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by enumerating the number of microbes present in the tissue of the non-human animal.

35. **(Original)** A method for identifying a compound for reducing microbial virulence, comprising: inoculating a non-human animal with a microbe, wherein the ability of the microbe to establish an infection in the non-human animal requires that the microbe colonize the animal; administering a compound which reduces the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor to the animal, and determining the effect of the test

compound on the ability of the microbe to colonize the animal, such that a compound for reducing microbial virulence is identified.

36. **(Original)** The method of claim 35, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.

37. **(Original)** The method of claim 35, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.

38. **(Original)** The method of claim 35, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by measuring the ability of the microbe to colonize the tissue of the non-human animal.

39. **(Original)** The method of claim 35, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by enumerating the number of microbes present in the tissue of the non-human animal.

40. **(Original)** A method for identifying transcription factors which promote microbial virulence comprising: creating a microbe in which a transcription factor to be tested is misexpressed; introducing the microbe into a non-human animal; wherein the ability of the microbe to establish an infection in the non-human animal requires that the microbe colonize the animal; and determining the ability of the microbe to colonize the animal, wherein a reduced ability of the microbe to colonize the animal as compared to a wild-type microbial cell identifies the transcription factor as a transcription factor which promotes microbial virulence.

41. **(Original)** The method of claim 40, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.

42. **(Original)** The method of claim 40, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.

43. **(Original)** The method of claim 40, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by measuring the ability of the microbe to colonize the tissue of the non-human animal.

44. **(Original)** The method of claim 40, wherein the level of infection of the non-human animal is determined by enumerating the number of microbes present in the tissue of the non-human animal.
45. **(Original)** A method for reducing the ability of a microbe to adhere to an abiotic surface comprising: contacting the abiotic surface or the microbe with a compound that modulates the activity of a transcription factor such that the ability of the microbe to adhere to the abiotic surface is reduced.
46. **(Original)** The method of claim 45, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the AraC-XylS family of transcription factors.
47. **(Original)** The method of claim 45, wherein the transcription factor is a member of the MarA family of transcription factors.
48. **(Original)** The method of claim 45, further comprising contacting the abiotic surface or the microbe with a second agent that is effective at controlling the growth of the microbe.
49. **(Original)** The method of claim 45, wherein the abiotic surface is selected from the group consisting of: stents, catheters, and prosthetic devices.
50. **(Original)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound that modulates the activity or expression of a microbial transcription factor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the compound reduces microbial virulence.
51. **(Original)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound that modulates the activity or expression of a microbial transcription factor and an antibiotic in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Please add the following claim:

52. (New) A method for treating or preventing infection of a subject by a microbe comprising: administering a compound that modulates the expression or activity of a microbial transcription factor to a subject at risk of developing an infection, wherein said modulation of the microbial transcription factor reduces virulence of the microbe, such that infection of the subject is treated or prevented.